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"The Order of Causal Elements in the Glorious Quran"

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1.1. Introduction

Order is defined as "the pattern of relationships constituting or underlying a linear sequence of linguistic units" (Crystal. 1985: 215). It is helpful to throw some light on the way in which language is employed for emotive, aesthetic, rhetorical, or connotative purposes ; that is, the placement of some words, phrases or clauses in initial position or the delay of others to final position is not a random process. In addition, order itself is variable within certain limits ; and that variability contributes in a notable way to the general flexibility of the language. However, the present study concentrates on the order of causal elements in the Quran which is the holy book of the Islamic World. It tackles the problem at two levels : the clause and the sentence.

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1.2. The Order of Causal Elements at Clause Level

A clause is a group of words which in itself is capable of being a sentence ; that is, an independent clause is looked upon as the equivalent of simple sentence. In such a construction a prepositional phrase stands for the causal element. However, a prepositional phrase introduced by the preposition ‘ مـن because of’ occupies a final position in the clause or it may be placed first, e.g.

(يَتَوَارَى مِنَ الْقَوْمِ مِنْ سُوءِ مَا بُشِّرَ بِه) ، [1]He hides himself from men because of the bad news (the Quran, Chapter 16, Verse 59).

(مِمَّا خَطِيئَاتِهِمْ أُغْرِقُوا) [2].Because of their sins they were drowned. (The Quran. Chapter 7 1 , Verse 25).

Prepositional phrases introduced by the preposition ‘ بـ because of ’ may also occupy a final or initial position, e.g. (فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ بِظُلْمِهِمْ) [3]

The thunderbolt smote them because of their wickedness. (Hie Quran, Chapler 4, Verse 153).

(لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ) [4] Allah has cursed them because of their unbelief. (The Quran, Chapter 2, Verse 88).

(فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذَنْبِهِمْ) [5] Their Lord let loose His scourge because of their crime. (The Quaran, Chapter 91, Verse 14).

(فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ) (6) Allah scourged them because of their sins. (The Quran, Chapler 40, Verse 21)

(فَبِمَا نَقْضِهِمْ مِيثَاقَهُمْ لَعَنَّاهُم) (7) Because of their breaking their covenant We cursed them. (The Quran, Chapter 5, Verse 13).

(بِظُلْمٍ مِنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ طَيِّبَاتٍ أُحِلَّتْ لَهُمْ) (8) Because of the

Jews' iniquity, We forbade them good things which were allowed them. (The Quran, Chapter 4, Verse 160).

The preposition 'في because of' is also used in the Quran to

show reason. The phrase introduced by it may occupy a final position or it may be included within the clause, e.g.

(فَذَلِكُنَّ الَّذِي لُمْتُنَّنِي فِيه) (9) This is the man on whose account you reproached me. (The Quran, Chapler 12, Verse 32).

(لَمَسَّكُمْ فِي مَا أَفَضْتُمْ فِيهِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ) (10)A terrible punishment

because of what you did, would inflict you. ('Ihe Quran, Chapter 24, Verse 14).

The preposition ' على because of' also indicates reason. The phrase introduced by this preposition occupies a final position, e.g.

(قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَى عِلْمٍ عِنْدِي) (11) He said, "these riches were given to me because of the knowledge I possess (the Quran, Chapter 28, Verse 78).

1.3. The Order of Causal Elements in Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses. However, the causal clauses in the Quran are expressing reason. They are introduced by various subordinators. The causal clause introduced by the subordinator 'بما because' may follow or precede the independent clause, e.g.

(جَزَيْنَاهُمْ بِمَا كَفَرُوا) [12] we requited them because they were ungrateful. (The Quran, Chapter 34, Verse 17).

(الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ) [13] Today you are awarded a chastisement of disgrace because you spoke against Allah other than truth (The Quran, Chapter 6, Verse 93).

(بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ) [14] Since you have led me astray, I will seduce them on earth. (The Quran, Chapter 15, Verse 39).

(قَالَ فَبِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ) [15] You have led me astray, I will waylay them as they walk on Your straight path (The Quran, Chapter 7, Verse 16).

The subordinator (اذ since) is used in the Quran to express reason (Ibn Hisham, W.D.: 1, 81-82). A clause introduced by this

subordinator may follow the independent clause, e.g.

(فَمَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَلا أَبْصَارُهُمْ وَلا أَفْئِدَتُهُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِذْ كَانُوا يَجْحَدُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ)

(16)Nothing did their ears, their eyes, or their eyes avail them since

they denied the revelations of Allah (The Quran, Chapter 46, Verse 26). Also, the subordinate clause may precede the independent one, e.g.

(وَإِذْ لَمْ يَهْتَدُوا بِهِ فَسَيَقُولُونَ هَذَا إِفْكٌ قَدِيمٌ) (I7) . And since (hey reject its guidance, they say: 'This is an ancient falsehood' (The Quran, Chapter 46, Verse 11).

(وَإِذِ اعْتَزَلْتُمُوهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَأْوُوا إِلَى الْكَهْفِ) (18) Because you depart from them and from their idols, go to the cave for shelter- (The Quran, Chapter I 8, Verse 1 6).

: Also, the clause introduced by the subordinator 'اذ' may be included within the independent clause, e.g.

(وَلَنْ يَنْفَعَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ إِذْ ظَلَمْتُمْ أَنَّكُمْ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ) (19) It will not avail you on this day, because you have done wrong, that you share lasting punishment (The Quran, Chapter 43, Verse 39).

The subordinator 'كما because' is also used to introduce a

causal clause (cf. Ilasan, 1975: II, 516, Ibn Hisham, W.D.: I, 176) which can follow or precede the independent clause, e.g.

(وَاذْكُرُوهُ كَمَا هَدَاكُم) (20) Remember Him because He gave you guidance (The Quaran, Chapter- 2, Verse 198).

(ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيراً) (21) Have mercy on them because

they nursed me when I was an infant (The Quaran, Chapter 17, Verse 24).

(وَيُعَلِّمُكُمْ مَا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ) (22) Because We have sent to you an apostle of your own who will recite to you Our revelations and purify you of sin, who will instruct you in the book and in wisdom and teach you that of which you have no knowledge, remember Me, then, I will remember you (The Quran, Chapter 2, Verse 151-152).

The subordinator ' بأن because' also introduces a subordinate clause of reason which always follows the independent clause, e.g.

(صَرَفَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لا يَفْقَهُونَ) (23) Allah has turned away their hearts because they are senseless people (The Quran, Chapter 9, Verse 129).

(نُعَذِّبْ طَائِفَةً بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ) (24) We will punish a number of people because they are guilty (The Quran, Chapter 9, Verse 66).

A subordinate clause of reason introduced by the lightened subordinator'أن because'always follows the independent clause. e.g.

(يُخْرِجُونَ الرَّسُولَ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَنْ تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ رَبِّكُمْ) (25) They drive the apostle and yourselves out of your city because you believe in Allah, your Lord (The Quran, Chapter 60, Verse 1).

(أَفَنَضْرِبُ عَنْكُمُ الذِّكْرَ صَفْحاً أَنْ كُنْتُمْ قَوْماً مُسْرِفِينَ) (26) Should we ignore you because you are a sinful nation (The Quran, Chapter 43, Verse 5).

(إِنَّا نَطْمَعُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ لَنَا رَبُّنَا خَطَايَانَا أَنْ كُنَّا أَوَّلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ) [27] We that He will forgive us our sins since we are the first who have believed (The Quran, Chapter 26, Verse 51).

The subordinator ‘ ألا (أن لا) ’ which introduces a causal clause always follows the independent clause, e.g.

(لَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَفْسَكَ ألاّ يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ) [28] You will perhaps fret yourself to death because they are unbelievers (The Quran, Chapter 26, Verse 3).

1.4. The Order of Causal Elements in Compound Sentences

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses usually joined by a coordinating conjunction. The major conjunction which usually connects two clauses of a compound sentence is the causal ‘fa’ (and or then)' which introduces a clause that expresses the result or effect of a preceding clause (cf. Ibn Hisham. W.D. : I, 162-163). However, the causal element in such a construction always occupies the initial position, e.g.

(فَوَكَزَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ) [29]. The Moses struck him with the fist and killed him (The Quran, Chapter 28, Verse 15).

(أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَتُصْبِحُ الْأَرْضُ مُخْضَرَّةً) [30] He sends water

from the sky and the earth becomes green (The Quran, Chapter 22, Verse 63).

(وَلا تَطْغَوْا فِيهِ فَيَحِلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ غَضَبِي) (31) Do not transgress, lest you should incur my wrath (The Quran, chapter 20, Verse 81).

1.5. Conclusions

According to the analyses in this study, the following conclusions can be drawn :

1.The order of causal elements at clause level is flexible, especially when the prepositional phrases of reason are introduced by the prepositions ' ب ' , 'من ' and ' في '.

2.The order of causal elements at complex sentence level is free when the subordinate clauses of reason are introduced by the causal subordinators 'بما ' , ' إذ ' and 'كما' . On the other hand, the order is fixed when the causal clauses are introduced by the causal subordinators 'بأن ', ' أن ' and ' ألا ' ; that is, clauses introduced by these subordinators always occupy the final position.

3. The order of causal elements at compound sentence level is fixed; that is, elements expressing reason are always placed first.

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ملخص

ترتيب العناصر السببية في القرآن الكريم

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يعالج البحث مسألة ترتيب العناصر السببية في القرآن الكريم، فقد تتقدم بعض العناصر وتتأخر الأخرى لتحقيق أغراض مختلفة منها إثارة الجوانب العاطفية لدى القارئ او السامع، أو لتحقيق أغراض جمالية أو بلاغية، أو لتضمين معنى إضافي يوحيه العنصر السببي علاوة على معناه الأصلي. يركز البحث على نظم العناصر السببية على صعيدي الجمل الصغرى والجمل الكبرى. وقد خلص البحث الى ان العناصر السببية في الجمل الصغرى تتميز بمرونة الحركة إلى حد ما. واما على صعيد لجمل الكبرى وخاصة الجمل المعقدة، فان الأدوات التي تتصدر العناصر السببية هي التي تتحكم بمرونة الحركة أو باستحالتها.
اما في الجمل المركبة، فأن العناصر السببية تتميز بالثبات أو استحالة تغير مواقعها.

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